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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for implementing a network security level via a security switch, said security switch storing a modifiable list of trusted file extensions, said method as implemented in said network switch comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving a request from a client to a server to retrieve an object;

(b) parsing and identifying a file extension of the object associated with said received request;

(c) comparing said identified file extension with said pre-stored list of trusted file extensions; and

(d) forwarding the received request to an inspection gateway a upon not finding a successful match.

2. (Currently Amended) The—A method as per claim 1, wherein upon finding a successful match in step (c) forwarding said received request to said server.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method as per claim 1, wherein said steps (a) through (d) are performed upon verifying that said client is an authorized client.

4. (Currently Amended) The~~A~~ method as per claim 1, wherein said steps (a) through (d) are performed upon verifying that said server is an authorized server.

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5. (Currently Amended) TheA method as per claim 1, wherein said security switch stores a modifiable list of trusted content-types, said method further comprising the steps of:

receiving a reply from said server;

parsing said reply to identify a content-type of an object contained in said reply;

comparing said identified content-type of the object with said pre-stored list of trusted content-types; and

upon finding a successful match, forwarding said reply to said client.

6. (Currently Amended) TheA method as per claim 1, wherein said request is a HTTP request.

7. (Currently Amended) TheA method as per claim 1, wherein communication session between said client and said server is a TCP/IP session.

8. (Currently Amended) TheA method as per claim 1, wherein said object is any of the following: an image file, an audio file, a video file, an active server page file, a script file, or a markup language-based file.

9. (Currently Amended) TheA method as per claim 1, wherein said security switch communicates with said server over a network, and said network is any of the following:

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local area network (LAN), wide area network (WAN), metropolitan area network (MAN), wireless network, cellular network, or the Internet.

10. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a computer ~~usable~~ readable recording medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for implementing a network security level via a modifiable list of trusted file extensions, said computer readable program executing steps of: ~~medium comprising:~~

(a) ~~computer readable program code aiding in~~ receiving a request from a client to a server to receive an object;

(b) ~~computer readable program code parsing and identifying a file extension of the object~~ associated with a received request;

(c) ~~computer readable program code comparing an identified file extension with said pre-stored list of trusted file extensions;~~ and

(d) ~~computer readable program code aiding in~~ forwarding the received request to an inspection gateway.

11. (Currently Amended) The article of manufactures of A method as per claim 10, wherein the computer readable program code causes the forwarding of the received request to an inspection gateway upon not finding a successful match, and wherein upon finding a successful match, further executing steps of comprising:

(1) ~~computer readable program code forwarding a received request to a server;~~

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(2) ~~computer-readable program code~~ receiving a reply from a server; and

(3) ~~computer-readable program code~~ aiding in forwarding a reply to a client.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An article of manufacture as per claim 10, wherein said computer readable program stored on the computer readable recording medium further executes steps of~~comprises~~:

~~computer-readable program code~~ parsing a reply to identify a content-type of an object contained in said reply;

~~computer-readable program code~~ comparing an identified content-type with a pre-stored list of trusted content-types; and

upon finding a successful match, ~~computer-readable program code~~ forwarding said reply to said client.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for implementing a network security level via a security switch, said security switch storing a modifiable list of trusted file extensions and a modifiable list of trusted content-types, said method as implemented in said network switch comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving a request from a client to a server to retrieve an object;

(b) parsing and identifying a file extension of the object associated with said received request;

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(c) comparing said identified file extension with said pre-stored list of trusted file extensions; and

(d) forwarding said received request to an inspection gateway upon not finding a successful match.

14. (Currently amended) The A-method as per claim 13, wherein upon finding a successful match, further comprising:

(1) forwarding said received request to said server;

(2) receiving a reply from said server,

(3) parsing said reply to identify a content-type of an object contained in said reply;

(4) comparing said identified content-type of the object with said pre-stored list of trusted content-types; and

(5) upon finding a successful match, forwarding said reply to said client.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~-The method as per claim 13, wherein said steps (a) through (d) are performed upon verifying that said client is an authorized client.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~-The method as per claim 13, wherein said steps (a) through (d) are performed upon verifying that said server is an authorized server.

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17. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method as per claim 13, wherein said request is a HTTP request and a communication session between said client and said server is a TCP/IP session.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A method as per claim 13, wherein said object is any of the following: an image file, an audio file, a video file, an active server page file, a script file, or a markup language-based file.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A method as per claim 13, wherein said security switch communicates with said server over a network, and said network is any of the following: local area network (LAN), wide area network (WAN), metropolitan area network (MAN), wireless network, cellular network, or the Internet.

20. (Currently Amended) A system implementing network security for content exchanged between a client and a server over a network, said system comprising:

(a) a security switch storing a modifiable list of trusted file extensions, said security switch:

receives and parses requests to retrieve an object, to identify a file extension of the object associated with a received request;

compares said identified file extension of the object with said pre-stored list of trusted file extensions; and

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upon finding a successful match, forwards said received request to said server and receives a reply from said server; and

(b) an inspection gateway working in conjunction with said security switch and receiving forwarded requests when a file extension of the object of a request fails to match trusted file extensions in said pre-stored list, said inspection gateway communicating with said server and retrieving, inspecting, and verifying an object related to said received request, and based upon successful verification, forwarding a reply to said security switch.

21. (Currently Amended) A system as per claim 20, wherein said security switch further comprises a modifiable list of trusted content-types, and said security switch after reception of said reply from said server,

parses said reply to identify a content-type of an object contained in said reply;

compares said identified content-type of the object with said pre-stored list of trusted content-types; and

upon finding a successful match, forwards said reply to said client.

22. (Currently Amended) TheA system as per claim 20, wherein said request is an HTTP request and communication between said client and server is via a TCP/IP session.

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23. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The system as per claim 20, wherein said object is any of the following: an image file, an audio file, a video file, an active server page file, a script file, or a markup language-based file.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A system as per claim 20, wherein said security switch communicates with said server over a network, and said network is any of the following: local area network (LAN), wide area network (WAN), metropolitan area network (MAN), wireless network, cellular network, or the Internet.

25. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a computer readable ~~usable~~ recording medium having computer readable program code embodied therein implementing a network security level via a modifiable list of trusted file extensions and a modifiable list of trusted content-types, said computer readable program executing steps of ~~medium~~ comprising:

(a) ~~computer readable program code aiding in receiving a request from a client to a server~~ to receive an object;

(b) ~~computer readable program code parsing and identifying a file extension of the object~~ associated with a received request;

(c) ~~computer readable program code comparing an identified file extension with said pre-stored list of trusted file extensions~~; and

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(d) ~~computer readable program code aiding in forwarding~~ said received request to an inspection gateway upon not finding a successful match,

26. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture ~~medium~~ of claim 25, wherein said computer readable code further executes steps of further comprising:

(1) ~~computer readable program code aiding in forwarding~~ a received request to a server;

(2) ~~computer readable program code aiding receiving~~ a reply from a server,

(3) ~~computer readable program code parsing~~ a reply to identify a content-type of an object contained in said reply;

(4) ~~computer readable program code comparing~~ an identified content-type of the object with said pre-stored list of trusted content-types; and

(5) ~~computer readable program code aiding in forwarding~~ a reply to a client upon finding a successful match.

27. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of ~~medium as per~~ claim 26, wherein when said computer readable program code compares an identified file extension with said pre-stored list of trusted file extensions and does ~~not find~~ a match said computer readable program code of (1) through (5) is executed.

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28. (Currently Amended) A method for implementing a network security level via a security switch, said method as implemented in said network switch comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving a request from a client to a server to retrieve an object;
- (b) parsing and identifying a file extension of the object associated with said received request;
- (c) verifying said identified file extension as a trusted file extension; and
- (d) upon not verifying said identified file extension of the object, forwarding the received request to an inspection gateway; else forwarding said received request to said server.

29. (Currently Amended) TheA method as per claim 28, said method further comprising the steps of:

- receiving a reply from said server;
- parsing said reply to identify a content-type of an object contained in said reply;
- verifying said identified content-type of the object as a trusted content-type;
- and
- upon verifying said identified content-type, forwarding said reply to said client.

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30. (Currently Amended) TheA method as per claim 28, wherein said steps (a) through (d) are performed upon verifying that said client is an authorized client.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method as per claim 28, wherein said steps (a) through (d) are performed upon verifying that said server is an authorized server.

32. (Currently Amended) A method for implementing a network security level via a security switch, said method as implemented in said network switch comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving a request from a client to a server to retrieve an object;

(b) verifying said received request to retrieve an object as a trusted request;

and

(c) upon not verifying said received request, forwarding said received request to an inspection gateway; else forwarding said received request to said server.

33. (Currently Amended) TheA method as per claim 32, said method further comprising the steps of:

receiving a reply from said server;

parsing said reply to identify a type of an object contained in said reply;

verifying said identified type of object as a trusted object type; and

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upon verifying said identified type of object, forwarding said reply to said client, else, not forwarding said reply to said client.

34. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method as per claim 32, wherein said steps (a) through (c) are performed upon verifying that said client is an authorized client.

35. (Currently Amended) The~~A~~ method as per claim 32, wherein said steps (a) through (c) are performed upon verifying that said server is an authorized server.

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